

Hospital Advisory Workgroup (HAG)

Meeting Minutes for November 17, 1998


Meeting Minutes

Introductions: John Chavez opened the Hospital Advisory Workgroup meeting by asking each participant to introduce themselves and state the name of the hospital or group they represent.

Discussion Topics:

Managing Hazardous Materials Incidents: Mike Bigler, Chief Deputy State Fire Marshal from the Indiana Department of Fire & Building Services gave a very timely presentation pertaining to the established partnerships between the Office of the State Fire Marshal, Indiana Emergency Medical Services and the Public Safety Training Institute to help the Emergency Medical Services and the Hospital Emergency Rooms be better prepared for a Hazardous (Nuclear, Biological, Chemical) Materials Incident. Due to the recent number of anthrax scares, many hospitals were unprepared to cope with number of patients needing to go through the decontamination process prior to being seen by emergency room personnel.

Mike explained that the State Fire Marshal's Office has established a partnership with Indiana Emergency Medical Services and the Public Safety Training Institute to help the emergency medical services and the hospital emergency rooms to be better prepared for a hazardous materials incident. The program offers detailed information about developing a systems approach for community-wide emergency preparedness plans. (See handout materials in attachment A) The program offers detailed information about developing a systems approach for community-wide emergency preparedness plans. The Indiana Fire Marshal Office will make available Loaner sets of this program to your hospital or emergency room at no cost. Loaner sets can be obtained by calling the State Fire Marshal's Office at (800) 423-0765.

(For healthcare engineers with the ability to surf the web, the Agency For Toxic Substances And Disease Registry have these documents ("Managing Hazardous Material Incidents: Volume I, II, and III) available for downloading at  <http://atsdr1.atsdr.cdc.gov:8080/prevent.html>.)

An Overview of Ogden's Experience Processing Medical Waste at Other Facilities in the United States: Raj Khanna and Thomas McCarthy from Ogden Waste to Energy, Inc. gave a really informative presentation pertaining to Ogden's ability to process and treat infectious waste at other Ogden facilities in Oregon and Florida. They also discuss the feasibility of accepting and incinerating infectious waste at their municipal waste incinerators located in Indianapolis. (See Attachment B)

(Background Information: *For several months, Indiana hospitals have been closely evaluating their hospital/ medical/ infectious waste treatment and disposal options commercially available to Indiana hospitals. Jim Hunt representing the United Hospital Services (a consortium of local area hospitals located in Marion county) contacted Ogden and Spencer Grover from the Indiana Hospital & Health Association to see if a representative from Ogden Waste to Energy, Inc could come and give a presentation on the feasibility of burning infectious waste at their Indianapolis municipal waste incinerator to the Hospital Advisory Workgroup.*

Spencer Grover on behalf of United Hospital Services and Ogden Waste to Energy facilitated a meeting on November 13, 1998 with Ogden Waste to Energy representatives and staff members from OAM and OSHWM permitting sections to discuss the feasibility of amending Ogden's, yet unissued, Title V Air Operating Permit and their OSHWM Incinerator Permit to allow the processing and treatment of infectious waste at Ogden's Indianapolis facility. No decision to amend either permits to process and treat infectious waste at the Indianapolis facility will be made until the facility's Title V Air Operating Permit is issued and the facility's Incinerator permit renewal completed. Both permits will be made available for public comment sometime early next year prior to being issued.)

HAG Agenda for February 1999:

I have several great potential topics for the Next HAG meeting but I would still like to hear from you about topics that you would like to explore and discuss. The following topics have tentatively been placed on the February HAG agenda:

Determining Your Hospital's Hazardous Waste Generator Status: John Lovelace will be sending out an information packet to all HAG members pertaining to determining a hospital hazardous waste generating status. Your hospital's generator status determines which of Indiana hazardous waste rules you must follow to be in compliance with the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA). The packet will contain the following:

- listing of Indiana hospitals who have submitted their EPA form 8700-12 "Notification of Hazardous Waste Activity" to obtain an EPA ID Number
- OSHWM brochure entitled "How to Identify Waste & Determine if it's Hazardous Waste"
- EPA Rule 40 CFR 264.5 entitled "Special Requirements for Hazardous Waste Generated by Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators"
- EPA Rule 40 CFR 261.11 entitled "Hazardous Waste Determinations"
- EPA Guidance entitled "Understanding the Hazardous Waste Rules: A Handbook for Small Businesses - 1996 Update"

Please review this information and perform a hazardous waste determination to identify specific hazardous waste streams generated by your hospital facility. Once you have identified waste streams considered hazardous under RCRA, maintain a detail monthly

accounting of generation rates. Your monthly generation rate will determine your hazardous waste generator status.

If you can fax a listing of identified hazardous waste streams generated by your hospital, I will create an anonymous composite listing for distribution to the Feb HAG. Please be sure to bring your listing of hazardous waste streams and monthly generation rates for comparison with the composite list. My fax number is (317) 233-5627.

Pollution Control Requirements for Meeting the Medical Waste Incinerator Maximum Achievable Control Technology (MWI MACT) Standard: Many hospitals are still in the process of evaluating pollution control upgrades needed for their medical waste incinerator to meet the MACT Standard. Ron Wukasz from the Purdue University Technical Assistance Program (TAP) will be provide us with an overview of Pollution Control upgrade requirements necessary to meet the MACT. Purdue TAP will be offering all affected Indiana hospitals the opportunity to have a non bias, third party evaluation of pollution control equipment upgrade proposals received from consultant and PC equipment salesmen

Recycling opportunities in Indiana Hospitals: Philip O'Connor from the West Central Solid Waste District (Parke, Putnam, Montgomery, Hendricks, and Morgan counties) will give a presentation on recycling and source reduction services available to hospitals in West Central's 5 county area.

NEXT QUARTERLY HOSPITAL ADVISORY WORKGROUP MEETING:

February Hospital Advisory Workgroup
1-3:30 p.m., February 18, 1999
Indiana Government Center, South
Conference Center, Room A
402 W. Washington Street, Indianapolis
Call Jermica Dycus for more details: (800) 988-7901 ext. 3-8154.

Workgroup Meeting Attachments

Attachment A:

Office of the State Fire Marshal Press releases: Domestic Terrorism Response
Recommendations for Biological Incidents

Standard Operating Guidelines: Hazardous Materials Incident Response Training
Guidelines for Hospital Personnel Decontamination Procedures for NBC Incidents
Infection Disease control for Disaster/Mass Casualty Incidents

Attachment B:

Presentation overheads used by Ogden Waste to Energy entitled, "Ogden's Experience
Processing Medical Waste at Other Facilities in the United States"

Attachment C:

Information packet for determining a hospital's hazardous waste generator status.